

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated 27 September 2000, claims 1-5 were canceled and claims 6-10 were newly added. It is believed that the amendments clarify the patentable invention without adding new subject matter. Claims 6-10 are pending in the case. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims as requested is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 2 on page two of the Office Action, the Specification was objected to for not having a preferred arrangement.

Applicants traverse the objection, but in the interest of expediting prosecution have amended the Specifications as suggested by the Examiner.

In paragraph 3 on page two of the Office Action, the Abstract was objected to for not having proper language and format.

Applicants traverse the objection, but in the interest of expediting prosecution have amended the Abstract as suggested by the Examiner.

In paragraph 4 on page three of the Office Action, the drawings were objected to because Figures 1a and 1b is designated as "Prior Art".

Applicants respectfully traverse the objection to the drawings, but in the interest of expediting prosecution have amended the Specification and are submitting under separate cover PROPOSED DRAWINGS CHANGES to overcome the objection. The PROPOSED DRAWING CHANGES, submitted herewith, include a new Fig. 1a and 1b which does not include the caption "Prior Art". The new drawings clarify the specification and the claims without adding new matter.

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In paragraph 5 on page 3 of the Office Action, the Specification was objected to because of informalities. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, but have amended the Specification to overcome the objections.

In paragraph 6 on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. According to the Office Action, the claims are generally narrative and indefinite.

The Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection, but in the interest of expediting prosecution have canceled claims 1-5 and newly added claims 6-10. However, it is a well-established axiom in patent law that a patentee is free to be his or her own lexicographer. *MPEP 2173.05(b); Hormone Research Foundation Inc. v. Genentech Inc.*, 904 F.2d 1558 15 USPQ2d 1039 (Fed Cir. 1990). Accordingly, a claim may not be rejected solely because of the type of language used to define the subject matter for which patent protection is sought. *MPEP 2173.01; In re Swinehart*, 439 F.2d 210, 160 USPQ 226 (CCPA 1971). Moreover, support for "interface composition" may be found in the Specification on at least page 2, lines 34-35. Further, Applicant believes and intends the breath of claim 6 remains the same as cancelled claim 1, as it is believed that "reconfiguring," as defined in claim 6, is equally as broad as "redefinition" as recited in claim 1.

Further, in Applicants invention, a "provision variant" parameter includes a new value for reconfigured V5 interface data. Thus, when the V5 interface is stated, hardware first ensures via signaling that the new value of the provision variant is known at both ends (local exchange and access node) to ensure that both the local exchange and the

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access node observe the same composition, i.e., the locations and order of the signaling channels.

Thus, Applicant believes that the claims are definite and meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112 second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejections.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants submit that new independent claim 6 overcomes the rejections. Because claims 7-10, which depend directly or indirectly from claim 6, include the features recited in the independent claim as well as additional features, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7-10 are also in condition for allowance. Nevertheless, Applicants are not conceding the correctness of the Examiner's rejection with respect to such dependent claims and reserves the right to make additional arguments if necessary.

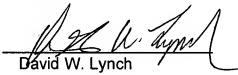
On the basis of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of this application and its allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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